UPDATE

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

ISSUE 13 DECEMBER 2002

OAC Finalizing Strategic Plan

The extensive consultations that went into developing OAC's draft strategic plan have been completed. Approximately 107 arts professionals and other interested parties gave their input over the course of the summer and early fall. In November, representatives of provincial arts service organizations were invited back to OAC to give us comments on the proposed directions. OAC submitted the draft strategic plan to the Board for discussion at its November meeting. The OAC Board has approved the overall direction and four overarching goals. The strategies are still being developed.

We thought we would share the four goals while we finalize the strategies.

Goal 1
Support growth and sustenance of the arts in Ontario through focused funding of artists and arts organizations.

Goal 2
Fund and encourage opportunities for arts education, public participation, and community involvement in the arts in Ontario.

Goal 3
Be a leader in the arts community and with the government in promoting the value of the arts to all Ontarians.

Goal 4
Manage OAC's resources in an effective, accountable, and transparent fashion.

HIGHLIGHTS

- OAC's Strategic Plan
- Report from Ontario and Michigan Conference
- First Recipients of New Chalmers Program
- Eligibility Requirements of Chalmers Program
- Network for Professionals Working with Dance and Youth
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Arts and the Quality of Life: Report from the Ontario and Michigan Conference

Three distinguished arts representatives were guest speakers at the recent meeting in Detroit called *Arts and the Quality of Life* and hosted by OAC and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA). **Walter Pitman**, former Executive Director of the Ontario Arts Council, gave an inspiring speech about how participation in the arts develops the skills to deal with the complex issues facing society today. **William Moore**, Director of the MacLaren Art Centre in Barrie, talked about taking art out of the gallery and making it an integral part of community life. **Antoni Cimolino**, Executive Director of The Stratford Festival, described how the Festival went from one small community's vision of a local theatre to an international success. **John Brotman**, OAC's Executive Director, spoke about the importance of making strategic alliances with Michigan, Ontario's most important trading partner. Both councils have committed to

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First Recipients of New Chalmers Program

A wide range of arts professionals received the first **Chalmers Arts Fellowships** and **Chalmers Professional Development Grants**. On October 31, thirty grants were awarded for a total of $568,968. This was the first of the program's two annual deadlines. A comparable number of grants are expected to be disbursed following the January 15, 2003, deadline.

The Chalmers Professional Development Grants support projects that include research, mentoring opportunities, and training with masters/elders in the field. The new program extends the reach of the former Chalmers Performing Arts Training program to visual artists, filmmakers, dramaturges, actors, designers, etc. Grants in this category are for a maximum of $15,000.

The Chalmers Arts Fellowships are funding an eclectic spectrum of artists who are challenging the boundaries of their disciplines through experimentation and creation of new work. Projects funded include those that will provide emerging, mid-career, and established arts professionals with opportunities to research and develop new work. The maximum amount for an Arts Fellowship is $50,000.

The list of the recipients appears below. For more detail about the proposed artistic activity, go to www.arts.on.ca.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Community Arts
Florencia Berinstein, $14,000
Dance
Platform 33 $13,000
Denise Fujiwara, $7,000
Literature
Warren Heiti, $1,080
Music
Brenda Earle, $14,000
Rafael Hoekman, $7,500
John Mark Sherlock, $12,500
Debashis Sinha, $8,000
Theatre
Nicole Stamp, $3,000
Jovanni Sy, $12,500
Visual Arts
Suzanne Lake, $8,500
Minh Nguyen, $14,000

ARTS FELLOWSHIPS

Dance
Deepti Gupta, $18,250
Film & Video
John Greyson, $50,000
Benny N. Ramsay, $35,308
Laura Taler, $37,000
Interdisciplinary
Elizabeth Chitty, $29,500
Literature
M. NourbeSe Philip, $20,000
Nathalie Stephens, $20,600
Music
R. Murray Schafer, $25,000
Theatre
Claudia Dey, $15,000
Ken Gass, $5,400
Soheil Parsa, $31,730

Arts and the Quality of Life: Report from the Ontario and Michigan Conference *(continued)*

exploring ways to find more opportunities for artistic exchanges. The event preceded the annual conference of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA). As a result of the conference, the MCACA invited John Brotman to participate in the Salzburg Seminar's session called Culture and Communities at the end of November.

On day two of the NASAA conference, OAC Chair **Julia Foster** introduced Senator **Laurier LaPierre**, who gave an impassioned talk about the necessity of maintaining Canada's cultural identity in the face of a commanding American presence. Later that day delegates were invited to a reception at the Art Gallery of Windsor.

First Recipients of New Chalmers Program *(continued)*

Visual Arts
Spring Hurlbut, $25,000
Germaine Koh, $22,500
Steve Mann, $21,200
Kelly Mark, $22,100
Ron Martin, $40,000
Julie Pringle, $9,000
Anna Torma, $26,300

Eligibility Requirements of the Chalmers Program

New programs often require fine-tuning as we go from developing the program, receiving applications, to the final jury selection process. After the first deadline to the new Chalmers Program, the following changes were made to the eligibility requirements:

- OAC's general policy is not to allow applicants to apply to more than one OAC program for the same project unless the applicant has learned that the first application has been unsuccessful. We have decided to lift this rule for the Chalmers Program, allowing a Chalmers Program applicant to apply to other OAC programs for the same project. (Because the Chalmers Program is funded through private philanthropy, and OAC programs are funded through public support, they are distinct sources of funds.)
- Applicants may receive only one Chalmers program grant within a two-year period.
- The Chalmers Program no longer accepts applications from collectives, but collaborations between two individuals are eligible.
- Applicants who have completed basic training and continued on to graduate and/or post-graduate study must demonstrate a minimum of three years of professional practice outside of academic institutions.

The next deadline for the Chalmers Program is January 15, 2003. For more information, contact Myles Warren, Dance, Awards and Chalmers Program Officer at 416-969-7422 or 1-800-387-0058 ext. 7422

Success Stories

Congratulations to **Austin Clarke**, this year's winner of the prestigious Giller prize. The author received a Writer's Reserve grant in March 2000 that contributed to the creation of the winning novel, *A Polished Hoe*, set in a fictional Caribbean island not unlike Barbados, his country of birth.

OAC-funded *Lolo's Child* was the opening feature film of this year's Reel Asian Film Festival (Toronto, November 27 to December 1). Director **Romeo Candido**'s "dramedy" features some Filipino Elvis impersonators and focuses on the story of Junior and how he finds himself through music.

On October 3, 2002, senior Ontario fibre-artist **Kai Chan** was awarded this year's $25,000 Saidye Bronfman Award for Excellence in Fine Crafts in a special ceremony at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. In his speech Kai graciously thanked several people who have supported his career over the years and made special mention of the Ontario Arts Council. He said that OAC has supported him with several grants, particularly the Artists in Education program through which he has been funded every year since 1988, noting that the program has kept him in rice and soya sauce and given him the joy of working with children.

Award-winning Baroque music ensemble **Tafelmusik** is famous for both its interpretations and its use of period instruments. Recently, Tafelmusik performed a cross-cultural concert of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, sharing the stage with virtuoso performers from China, India, and Nunavut. These were Wen Zhao on the pipa, Lakshmi Ranganathan on the veena, and throat singers Sylvia Cloutier and June Shappa from the Inuit ensemble Aqsarniit.

Board News

The OAC Board has undergone some changes in the past few months with term endings and two new appointments. Our two northern representatives, **denise truax** (Sudbury) and **John Huggins** (Timmins), as well as **Marnie Richards** (Brampton) came to the end of their second three-year terms. We thank them for their participation and contribution.

Two new appointments to the OAC Board were made on October 9, 2002. **Jean-Claude Bergeron** (Ottawa) is a distinguished member of both the visual arts and the Franco-Ontarian communities. A printmaker and former arts teacher, Jean-Claude Bergeron is now full-time director of the Galerie d'art Jean-Claude Bergeron, which specializes in works on paper. He created a five-year arts concentration program at De La Salle High School (the only such program in French Ontario). Jean-Claude was also instrumental in setting up a network of eight art galleries in Franco-Ontarian high schools across the province in the 1980s. Highly respected in the visual arts community, Jean-Claude was a member of the painting, sculpture, and photography juries that awarded the prizes during the fourth Jeux de la Francophonie (Ottawa-Hull 2001).

Jean-Claude Bergeron

Tom Hill is a practising artist who in other work capacities has been raising the profile of Aboriginal arts in Canada for more than 20 years. He has curated several exhibitions, including *Beyond History* in 1989 for the Vancouver Art Gallery and *Masterworks of Native American Identity and Belief* for the National Museum of the American Indian in New York in 1994. Tom served as the co-chair for the Canadian Museums Association *Task Force on Museums and First Peoples* from 1988 to 1995. He contributed to a collaborative installation that was part of the Art Gallery of Ontario's 1995 *O! Canada* exhibit.

Earlier in his artistic career Tom made two films, *Nature in Art* and *Colours of Pride*, the latter being a joint production with the National Film Board. From the additional film footage, *Beware of Pale Imitations*, a short television series on Aboriginal art and marketing, was created and broadcast on TVOntario and on cable networks. In 1997, he made his professional stage debut in Drew Hayden Taylor's play *The Baby Blues* for Native Earth at Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille.

Tom Hill

Tom Hill is currently the Museum Director of the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford.

On September 25, **denise truax**, Chair of the Board's Franco-Ontarian Affairs Committee, marked the end of her Board term by hosting a meeting with representatives of Franco-Ontarian arts service organizations. OAC Board members and staff reviewed the role of the Committee and its current priorities and invited participants to raise issues the community would like to see tackled in future. Incoming Board member Jean-Claude Bergeron will be the new Chair of the Franco-Ontarian Affairs Committee.

Staffing Update

Paul-François Sylvestre, OAC's Franco-Ontarian Officer, is stepping down five and a half years after joining OAC. A published author and an authority on Franco-Ontarian history, Paul-François has decided to devote more time to both his fiction writing and his journalistic activities. Paul-François's most recent novel is *Sissy ou une adolescence singulière*. Prior to joining OAC, Paul-François was the Director of Éditions L'Interligne and the Editor-in-Chief of the arts magazine *Liaison*. In 1994 he was awarded the Prix du Nouvel-Ontario for his body of work.

The Franco-Ontarian Officer responsibilities will be handled by **Shena Wilson**, who is being seconded from the Ministry of Culture, while OAC undertakes a search for a permanent replacement. Shena has been the Arts Consultant with the Arts and Cultural Industries Unit of the Ministry of Culture for the last two years. Her sector responsibilities have included Francophone Arts, Visual Arts, Dance, First Nations, and Multidisciplinary. She is also responsible for the administration of the Visiting Journalist / Visiting Programmer's Fund. Shena has a Master's degree in French language.

Shena will continue with some of her duties at the Ministry while she is part-time at OAC as Acting Franco-Ontarian Officer. She can be reached at 416-969-7427 or 1-800-387-0058 ext. 7427.

Please go to the OAC web site at www.arts.on.ca if you would like more details about how to apply for the position of Franco-Ontarian Arts Officer.

OAC Theatre Officer Honoured

Congratulations to **Pat Bradley**, OAC Theatre Officer, who has just received a Commemorative Medal for the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Pat was one of 25 Canadian arts professionals nominated for the honour by the Canadian Conference of the Arts. Various organizations across the country were invited to nominate Canadians who have made a significant contribution to their community or to Canada.

Foundation News

Canadian composers **Alexina Louie** and **Alex Pauk** were awarded the $10,000 **Louis Applebaum Composers Award** for excellence in music composition for film and television.

The presentation took place at The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto on November 29, 2002, at an event which also celebrated the publication of **Walter Pitman's** new book, ***Louis Applebaum: A Passion for Culture***.

Toronto's **Soulpepper Theatre Company** took the top **$50,000** prize for the second year in a row at the December 11, 2002, Queen's Park presentation of the **Lieutenant Governor's Awards for the Arts (Jackman-Bickell Awards)** hosted by the Honourable James Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. This year, six **$25,000** prizes were awarded to **Cisco Systems Bluesfest**, **Drayton Entertainment**, **The National Ballet of Canada**, **Opera Lyra Ottawa**, **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra**, and the **Tarragon Theatre**. Ten companies were each rewarded with **$10,000** for demonstrating exceptional private-sector and community support. They were **The Aldeburgh Connection, Festival 4-15: Ottawa Festival of the Arts for Young Audiences, Ballet Jörgen Canada, Canadian Art Foundation**, **Dancemakers**, **The Fringe of Toronto Theatre Festival, Opera Atelier, Ottawa Chamber Music Society**, **Theatre & Company**, and **The Grand Theatre**.

Network for Professionals Working with Dance and Youth

Members of the dance community who work with youth were recently invited to participate in a roundtable discussion hosted by OAC Dance Officer Myles Warren and choreographer/teacher Carol Anderson, author of the report *Dance and Youth*. Over the past ten years, dance professionals involved in dance for, by, and with youth have seen their needs increase while their field remains relatively unrecognized. The goal of the meeting was to create an informal network of professionals in an effort to raise the profile of this specific area of dance as well as identify barriers and needs. For more information contact Myles Warren, Dance Awards, and Chalmers Program Officer at 416-969-7422 or 1-800-387-0058 ext. 7422.

Arts Notes

TVOntario will air a repeat broadcast of the OAC/TVO coproduction *Exposures: The Art of Film and Video*. The nine OAC-supported films and videos, along with the artists' interviews, will be shown in the MasterWorks time slot on January 2, 2003, and January 9, 2003, at 10 p.m. OAC and TVOntario are discussing the possibility of doing a follow-up collaboration.

An information session in Ottawa provided the opportunity for a side trip to Lanark County last September. Several OAC Officers set off in a rented van to visit the McDonalds Corners-Elphin Recreation and Arts (MERA), located in a converted schoolhouse in the centre of the tiny village. This remarkable community arts organization boasts a 90 percent participation rate from the community it serves. Aside from its regular activities (craft classes, film screenings, evenings with the local fiddle orchestra, etc.), MERA has embarked on an ambitious project to resurrect the Lanark County weaving history. Craft artist and MERA chair Ankaret Dean has asked local sheep farmers to donate wool which community members will use to recreate the traditional designs brought by early settlers. Several 19th-century weaving looms have been donated to MERA by descendants of these families to facilitate the project.

McDonalds Corners-Elphin Recreation and Arts Schoolhouse

Questions or comments about UPDATE are welcome. Please contact Kirsten Gunter, OAC Communications Manager at kgunter@arts.on.ca

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